**Unmanned level crossing in Tamil Nadu**

1151. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are 1178 unnamed level crossing in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to convert them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) As on 01.04.2006, there were 1227 unmanned level crossings in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(b) to (d) As per extant rules, in case an unmanned level crossing provided initially and maintained at the cost of the railways needs manning/ upgrading/posting of additional gate-keeper due to increase in road traffic, the cost both initial as well as recurring and maintenance has to be borne by the State Government/Road Authority concerned. However, keeping in view the grave consequences of accidents at unmanned level crossing, Railways have decided to man vulnerable level crossings based on the traffic volume and visibility conditions at the unmanned level crossing. Such level crossings are being manned progressively.

**Gauge conversion**

†1152. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of railway lines in the country yet to be converted into broad gauge;

(b) the length of railway lines converted into broad gauge during last Five Year Plan and the expenditure incurred thereon, State-wise;

(c) the target of broad-gauge conversion during the current Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(d) the details of sections to be completed by the end of current financial year; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.